GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2561
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
GAUGE CONVERSION PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total distance of Railway track which is still pending for gauge conversion from meter gauge to broad gauge in Tamil Nadu of Southern Railway;

(b) the details of the allocation of funds for this project;

(c) whether the project is running behind the schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for speedy implementation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): As on 31.03.2004, 1886 kms of Meter Gauge line was existing in Tamil Nadu.

(b): The total outlay for various ongoing gauge conversion projects falling partly/fully in the state of Tamil Nadu for the current year is Rs. 135.96 crore .

(c) & (d): Works are in various stages of progress on about 1100 kms. Gauge conversion of Madurai-Manamadurai (48 kms) and Thanjavur-Tiruvarur (55kms) sections are targeted for completion during 2004-05. Projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(e): A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has been announced for which funds are being tied up. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of projects.